THE RARS -EXCITER-

RALEIGH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY — WORLDWIDE FRIENDSHIP

CLUB CALL: W4DW — REPEATER: W4DW/R 146.04/64

MARCH 1987 — ISSUE 204

LEADING EDGE

SHERMAN STARNES
W4TZU

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OSCAR-10 continues to provide good communications capability despite the gloomy prospects of a few months ago. Much of the credit for keeping the satellite and transponder in useable working order goes to the amateurs around the world who command the spacecraft. Not to be forgotten are the amateurs who use the satellite. They have been convinced that careful use of the transponder is required to prolong the useful life of OSCAR-10. Since the satellite is no longer being re-orientated with respect to the sun, the degree of illumination of the solar cells varies from 100 percent to nearly nothing. This results in a two-month period in the spring and another in the autumn when the power from the solar arrays is insufficient to operate the transponder without depleting the batteries. The user community has, therefore, been advised to not attempt to communicate through the transponder during March, April, September and October. When the spacecraft is available for use the power transmitted by ground stations should be limited to no more than 100 watts ERP. If this limited mode of operation can be sustained until late this fall, perhaps OSCAR-10 will be replaced by the Phase 3C satellite which should be named OSCAR-13. Hmmm. I wonder how superstitious our AMSAT leaders are.

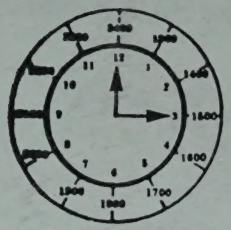
The two new Russian satellites, RS-9 and RS-10 still had not been launched at the time this was written. The launch site at Plesetsk has been in the grips of intense cold and this is said to have affected the Soviet launch schedule.

In other Russian space news, the two Cosmonauts scheduled to occupy the space station Mir for 290 days are the first in what is expected to be a permanent manned presence in space by the Soviet Union. Mir is equipped with ports which will allow permanent docking of modules designed for specific activities. The first is expected to be an astrophysics laboratory.

The Japanese amateur radio satellite, FO-12, continues it's popularity with those operating SSB and CW. In is not clear what the Japanese intend with respect to the mode JD (packet) transponder. TAPR, the group responsible for the TAPR-1 and TAPR-2 packet TNCs continue development of a modem for operating through the FO-12 packet transponder but they have been upstaged by Ham Radio magazine. See the February issue.

As I have done for the past two years, I will operate the AMSAT booth at the Charlotte Hamfest with the help of several other AMSAT members. I hope to see you there

EDITOR: ANN M. BRADLEY, WA4APK - RT. 1, BOX 145 - APEX, NC 27502 - 779-8840



MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held on Feb. 4, 1987 at the First Presbyterian Church, S. Salisbury St. President Bruce Eggers, WA9NEW, called the meeting to order and welcomed the 42 members and 11 guests.

Russell Lyday told the group of the robotics competition to be held at our hamfest. He explained some general principles and encouraged members to participate.

Walter, KB4IWD, reported on the special events activities for the Bicentennial of the Constitution. He will be attending a meeting next week at ARRL headquarters where plans for stations to be set up in D.C. & Philadelphia on May 24 will be discussed. A net is being organized on 3913 kHz. It will meet on the 1st and 3rd Tues. of each month at 8:00 pm.

Bruce sumarized the minutes of the Jan. Board Meeting:
The awards committee gave their report(K4MC, N4IQA, WB4USX).
Chuk, KB4MDZ, gave an update on the Awards Banquet. He told the group tonight of the details: buffet at Balentines March 4. There will be entertainment.
A training update was conveyed. Next class starts March 17 at Wake Tech. This class meets 3 nights a week 4 weeks in a row. There is a registration fee of $25. of which will be partially reimbursed to students in the form of training materials. Teachers are needed to assist. Contact Larry, N4MCC.

Norm, KN4G, will head up a committee to review the bi-laws. He stated presently the bi-laws are archaic and should be changed to reflect how the club is being run. He welcomed comments from the membership.

Bruce reminded the group of the 2M contest 64 on 64. It has been rejuvenated this accomplishment.

Field day chairman Andy, WP2KYH, gave an update on the event. He promises a keg on tap. There are plans for 3 stations and there will be a novice station. He asked the members for info on generators, antennas,or media coverage.

John, WB4WWT, gave an update on the Explorer Post Program. Since participation was so poor, it was decided to stop the program for now and reactivate in Sept.

Chuk, KB4MDZ, told of plans to get a bus trip to Dayton and or Atlanta. If there is any interest, contact him.

Hamfest cochairman Rollin, NF4P, told the members things are moving along well. The flyers will be printed soon. Walter, KB4IWD, talked about some ground rules for the club table.

Vice President Chuk, KB4MDZ, introduced the program for the evening. Rollin, NF4P, gave an informative talk on radiotelletype and AMTOR.

After the program, some prizes were drawn. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Sue Meyer Parks
RARS Secretary

RARS 2 METER NET ACTIVITIES

January brought a real pick-up in activity on the 8 o'clock RARS 2 meter net (146.04/146.64 MHZ) with a total of 300 check-ins and 28 messages handled during the month.

The highest number of check-ins was 14 on January 13 with WB4DCM as the net control station. The longest session, 26 minutes, was on January 17 with N4IQA as net control. The shortest (5 minutes) and the lowest number of check-ins was on January 14 with W4JG acting as the net control station.

The revival of "64 on 64" contacts on the club repeater has sparked a lot of interest. To get in on the fun, log 64 contacts (call, mane, date and time) and send your list to K4ABJ, Net Manager. The Club will recognize your accomplishment with a nice certificate.

Jim, K4ABJ

'NEW LINE

by Bruce Eggers, WA9NEW
President, RARS

* * * * AWARDS BANQUET HERE * * * *
Full details elsewhere in this issue and we sure hope to see you there. If you haven't received a call from one of the YLRARS members with full details and a chance to make your reservations, PLEASE call KB4MDZ.

TTNTT FEEDBACK

We don't hear much about the little 'puzzles' we run under the Technical Topics for Non-Technical Types from time to time, but the 10 dB per step attenuator which ran in the January issue brought a couple of replies. Bob, SM0BRU, really did it up right. He not only solved it but he wrote a basic program to solve the general case. TNX Bob. Nice to hear from you. More to come.

64-ON-64 IS HOT!!

'JG and 'ABJ were talking about it, 'OIC heard 'em, and the next chance, Ardie asked Jim. That started it up all over again. But this time it's really taken off! There must be 64+ stations still looking for the first 64, and now K4ABJ has announced the 64 RARS members endorsement and the endorsements in increments of 64 so that puts all of us back in it! So blow the dust off and join us. You too can earn a 64-on-64 certificate.

NOVICE/UPGRADE CLASS

Tuesday, March 17 is the date. Mark your calendar! New format, suitable for both entry level and upgrade, a new schedule: Three times per week, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for four straight weeks. We hear it's worked well for other clubs. Wake Tech is the place. If you don't get one of the 45,000+ flyers mailed out each quarter and you know anyone who might be interested, get in touch.

NOVICE ENHANCEMENT

ARRL's bulletin #13 had the details. Novice/Techs get 28.1 to 28.5 with voice from 28.3 to 28.5, 200W; and Novices get 222.1 to 223.91, 25W; and 1270 to 1295, 5W. Novice test goes to 30 questions and the Tech/General element 3 test goes to 3A & 3B, Tech and General respectively, 25 questions each. Two examiners to be required for Novice exams, all to be effective March 21, full details in April's QST or by 'phone.

W4DW ON THE NEW 'CHICKEN BAND'?

As noted above, Novices will get phone privileges on ten meters and 220 MHz on March 21. This change is not well accepted by many old-timers who argue that the Novice license is meant only to be a starting point in Amateur Radio and all Novices should be working diligently to upgrade to a 'real' license. "Besides", I've heard said, "give Novices phone privileges and we'll have another CB band on our hands." That reminds me of two earlier Part 97 changes, each to bring an end to Amateur Radio.

First, in the 50s, the Commission proposed the Novice license. Then, in the 70s, it was to be renewable. I remember well the late W4KFC at a Division LO meeting when the renewable Novice license was proposed. Vic began his talk to us, the ARRL leadership, by asking for a show of hands from those who had once been a Novice. I'd bet three-fourths of us raised our hand. Then he told us of the furor raised when the Commission first proposed the Novice license. He'd made his point and we knew it.

I've got two confessions to make:
1. I used to be a Novice.
2. As a Novice, I could talk on 2M'

I suggest that being a Novice with phone privileges did not ruin me or Amateur Radio. Anybody out there want to compare 'brag walls'?

Now, will 220 become a 'chicken-band'? I hereby go on record: I'D LIKE TO SEE 220 BECOME THE 'CHICKEN-BAND' OF THE 80s! So take that!

What was CB? I'll tell you. CB was the best thing to happen to ham radio since the Novice license. How many of our present day local club, NTS, ARES and ARRL elected officials got into Amateur Radio via CB? Want to call for a show of hands? I know a bunch of outstanding hams who were CBers but never mention it because they think the rest of us will think less of them for it. There's a BIG difference between CB and 220. We owe it to the future to get on 220 and provide the kind of guidance we couldn't, or didn't, provide on CB.

Should W4DW come up on 220? You bet! Next question: How? A club repeater? We're already working on it! A club project to build 220 rigs? WA4GEH and I are ready to coordinate! Interested?

YL RARS

YL RARS met Wednesday, February 11 in the back dining room at K & W Cafeteria for lack of an available meeting room. Nevertheless it was one of our largest and most productive meetings.

Our ladies' programs for the Hamfest are well in hand. The Hamfest social was discussed and specific duties were assumed by each participant. RARS will finance the bulk of the refreshments for the social, but assistance is needed from each RARS member and/or YL to fill up the table with dips, spreads, hors d'oeuvres, cakes, cookies, etc. Be thinking about what you'd like to contribute. There will be a sign-up sheet at the Awards Banquet.

Also under discussion was the time and place for future meetings since K & W's meeting rooms are taken for the second Wednesday.

PLEASE NOTE: THE MARCH MEETING WILL BE HELD AT K & W IN CAMERON VILLAGE ON THE SECOND THURSDAY AT 6:30 PM.

We'll see how this works out. Some YLs have indicated that Wednesday is a bad day for them. Perhaps we'll pick up some more new members. Programs will be resumed now that we have a room for meetings. Do try to join us. We have some important business before Hamfest time.

4th District Call Signs issued as of Oct. 1: Extra, AA4WQ; Adv, KK4AZ; Tech/Gen, N4OXC; Novice, KB4VAY. (Tnx Worldradio)

HAMFEST FYI

Jim, WA4AOO

Progress is still being made. The flyers are back from the printer (after extensive proofreading and consultation of dictionaries). Tickets will be printed soon. Obviously, Jack Kenny, WB4MCU has asked to be relieved of Ticket Chairman duties. Benny Caudell, N4AFO has agreed to take over. It's AMAZING what a session with the thumbscrews can do!. Due to school and work pressures, Joel Walker, AA4TE, also asked to be relieved, and Ardie Watkins, N4OIC, has taken over as clean-up Chairman. At this point loose ends are dangling everywhere and time seems short. However, we shall muddle through because of the good work of responsible chairmen and chairwomen, backed up be the full cooperation of the RARS members. Calls will be forthcoming from the chairmen asking your assistance. Please be there!

QSL BUREAUS

The ARRL offers an outgoing QSL service to League members (see Sept '86 QST page 73) and an incoming service to all (see Dec '86 QST page 57). A big TNX to all the volunteers of the Mecklenburg (NC) ARS and the Sterling Park (VA) ARC who do the work.

ADDENDUM TO RARS MEMBERSHIP ROSTER
January 1, 1987

Please add the following new members:

WA4	MJF	A	Reams, Ronald G.	RFD 2, Box 181	Wendell 27591	H:266-4434 B:733-4430
KB4	EXL	T	Reams, Sherry L.	RFD 2, Box 181	Wendell 27591	H:266-4434 B:365-6669
KB4	VYP	N	Reams, Patrick	RFD 2, Box 181	Wendell 27591	H:266-4434
K4	CIA	E	McDowell, Wm. G.	3709 Huntleigh Dr.	Raleigh 27604	H:876-2686 B:733-7834
KB4	LEN	T	McLean, Lyman K.	806 Hargrove St.	Henderson 27536	H:438-7002
KB4	VTK	T	Parker, Douglas C.	1228 Somerset Rd.	Raleigh 27610	H:833-9682 B:878-6283
KB4	WIA	T	Joseph, John N.	1410 Steinbeck Apt 2	Raleigh 27609	H:872-2527

* * AWARDS BANQUET * *

CQ RARS . . . CQ RARS . . . It's time once again for the Annual RARS Awards Banquet. Coming March 4 to Ballentine's Cafeteria in Cameron Village (that's near you!) is an amazing evening of friendship, socializing, just plain good folks and good food --- not to mention Awards to certain special people in RARS for their continuing efforts in making Amateur Radio and our club a great time for all. The gustatory delights on schedule are Beef Tips, Chicken ala King, Seafood Creole, rice, corn, broccoli and lima beans, assorted desserts plus beverage. The Club is picking up a portion of your tab and the cost to members and their spouse/friend is only $6 each. There will be a bar for special libations, the actual Awards, entertainment to lighten things up just a touch more and even door prizes. But the most important part of the Banquet is still the subject of much concern in this QTH.... WHO'S COMING? 'Cuz the simple mact of the fatter is that if you don't come you'll be sorely missed and the rest of us will be sorely miffed. This is one of the few times in a year when we can all get together and not clog up 04/64 doing it. Come and have an eyeball QSO with some of that rare DX you've gotten recently, meet someone new and make them an old friend. If they haven't already, the members of YL RARS will be calling soon to get our final headcount so think about it seriously. This OM and his XYL went last year and had a grand time. CUL at Ballentine's ? ? . . .

Chuk, KB4MDZ

EDITOR'S NOTE: Absolute deadline for a final number is noon on Monday, March 2. No reservations or cancellations can be accepted after that time. Members will be responsible for reservations not cancelled. Call Chuk!!
Home: 266-5273 Work: 890-1291

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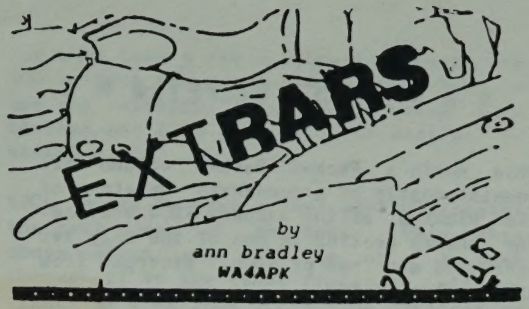
FOR SALE: SB-220 Heath Linear in excellent condition with little use. Make offer; Mosely Classic - 33 Trib-band Beam, Ham M Rotator and approximately 50 feet of Ron 25 Tower. Will let go at bargain price. Call Tom Alexander, WA4OTA....Office: 781-6800
Home: 848-0669

FOR SALE OR TRADE:
FT 207R Handheld. Want mobile 2M rig. David, WA4IZG, 528-1021.



RARS wishes a speedy recovery to Jack, WB4MCU, who has suffered a recent heart attack. Jack is resting at home now but will return to the hospital for open heart surgery. Jack, please know our thoughts and prayers are with you.

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Congratulations to proud parents Charles, WD4DCM, and Rhonda on the arrival of a lovely valentine, Lauren Elizabeth Swindell, born February 14.

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Fine business to all the recent upgrades:
John, KB4WIA
Bill, KB4, VTH
Dexter, KB4OKA
Doug, KB4VTK
All upgraded to technician and have been enjoying the 2 meter privileges on 04/64. Apologies to those I haven't mentioned. These are only the ones I'm aware of.

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* * * PACKET RACKET * * *

This month's Packet Racket column will consist mostly of a condensed version of the minutes of the January WDCG meeting. The January meeting in one of the only two scheduled meetings of WDCG. Excerpts from the minutes follow:

-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-

Reports were heard from the following committees:

-- Standards Committee
Ed, AB4S, reported that 147.54 MHz was being used as the local area network frequency (LAN) after 6 PM and had decreased congestion on 145.01 MHz considerably.

The Packet Racket has been guest authored, and has been widely appreciated. It is being published in The FEEDLINE (Cary Amateur Radio Club), the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society newsletter, and is also being sent to the Durham FM Association. Will, K4IWW, asked that these minutes be included in condensed form in the next Packet Racket.

-- Technical Committee
Cecil, WA4LPD, and Jerry, AIOK, reported on the current status of the digipeater (K4ITL-1). The major reason the digipeater is not up yet is that a new receiver had to be acquired since the earlier one had limitations that made it unsuitable for packet (the relays were not fast enough). The new hardware is in final wiring stages. NEXT MONTH or so!

WA4LPD-1 is running 2.4 of WA7MBL Mailbox, and may be replaced with version 3.12, which has 6 ports, in the near future.

-- ARES/NTS/ES, etc..
CARC used packet radio to pass Christmas holiday traffic at Cary Village Mall.
CARC used packet radio during Field Day '86.
Packet radio was used during this year's Simulated Emergency Test.

-- PBBS (Packet Bulletin Board Service)
Will, K4IWW, reported that Xpacket protocol is now available with PBBS, which is now at version 01.87.
EZPacket (AA4L), PTP (N4PY), both for IBM PC and compatibles, and an Atari 8-bit (KA4ATK) packet programs are locally available.

Will, K4IWW, has been sending out WDCG distribution disks with PBBS, PTP version 2.81, and EZP version 1.40.

K4IWW-1 PBBS is being switched to the 147.54 MHz LAN from 6 PM to 7 AM.

147.54 MHz was chosen for two reasons:
- it is a locally coordinated digital frequency.
- it is also easier to duplex with 145.01 MHZ.

Will, K4IWW, reported that WDCG has presented demos at the following: Durham Hamfest, RARS Hamfest, Cary Swapfest, Wake Tech, RARS club meeting, and the Triangle CP/M user's group.

A demo will be presented on 2/05/87 at Triangle ARC, in Durham (again by K4IWW).

The Nominations Committee made the following nominations:
President - Jerry Stuckle, AIOK, Vice-President - Cecil Tucker, WA4LPD, Secretary - Tim Kemp, WB4BAH, and Treasurer - Herb Lacey, N4UE.

Ed, WA4MXA, moved that those so nominated be elected by proclamation. Ed, AB4S, seconded, and all approved.

Congratulations to the new officers. May your year prove fruitful for all. Submitted by: Jim, KB4OHR, out-going Secretary.

-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-

Thanks, Jim, for getting the minutes available so quickly. You did a good job last year and I hope you enjoy the year off from the job as Secretary.

To some of us, it seemed like not too much got done during the year, but when you look at the list of accomplishments, you realize that there was indeed a lot done during 1986. Thanks to all who made things happen.

Now, a few words about the LAN frequency mentioned above.

So far, it looks like we made a pretty good choice. The activity has been good on 147.54 MHz, but not so much as what we were experiencing on 145.01 MHz. The problem we were running into there was very poor response time. This is because stations, digipeaters and MailBoxes/PBBS were getting better and better. Yes, packet does allow for a busy channel, but we were getting so crowded that many stations were being left out, nearly. Some of us have become spoiled by the features of packet radio that keep you from receiving erroneous text. Not one single line of error text was received on the screen of any packet radio station in the area, even though there were, at times, up to 12 or more stations operating at the same time! Let's see RTTY pull that off!

The WA4LPD MailBox now has two ports running -- LPD-1 on 145.01 MHz and LPD-2 on 147.54 MHz. There is a gateway function between the two. Now, don't get the idea that one should connect to LPD-1 on .01 and gateway to .54 so they can log on the K4IWW-1 PBBS system and download files. This will be defeating the purpose. In fact, I think K4IWW is going to disallow WA4LPD-2 from even connecting to the PBBS. What is the gateway for? When all of the locals are on the LAN frequency, it will not be possible for out-of-town stations to connect to one of us without it. An example of how it should be used is in order:

> AB4V in Greensboro wants to chat with AIOK for a while. He connects to WA4LPD-1 via K4LKQ-2 (Greensboro) and when he gets the prompt, he chooses the <G>ateway function on LPD. Next, he tells the gateway to connect to AIOK. Meanwhile, AIOK who is just sitting on the LAN frequency, will get the connect from WA4LPD-2. AIOK won't know who is connected to him, but will know it is via the gateway since he sees the LPD-2 call. Now, AB4V is informed that he is connected and he proceeds to tell AIOK who he is and asks him to move to 145.01 MHz so he can reconnect.

Why did AIOK and AB4V move back to 145.01 MHz to have the QSO? We would have solved nothing if they had stayed on the gateway for more than a few minutes to arrange the QSO. Both frequencies would have been in use and everyone else would have been blocked out from connecting to WA4LPD-1 or WA4LPD-2.

WDCG hopes to make a dual-port digipeater the next order of business. When this comes about, we will be able to pass through it to the other frequency without tying up a MailBox or causing unnecessary traffic on either frequency. There will be more on this subject in future editions of Packet Racket.

There will be another meeting of WDCG in the near future -- probably in February. Watch for an announcement about it and try to attend, even if you are only interested in packet radio in the Wake County area.

Congratulations to the new officers of WDCG, and our thanks to the outgoing officers. You guys all deserve the best!

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SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

AWARDS BANQUET MARCH 4!

RARS meets each first Wednesday at 7:30 at First Presbyterian Church, 116 S. Salisbury Street

Calendar

Mar 4 - RARS Annual Awards Banquet
Ballentine's, Cameron Vlg.
$6.00 per person - 6:30 pm

Mar 6, 8 - ARRL Int'l DX Cont., Phone

Mar 10 - RARS Exciter Copy Deadline

Mar 11 - RARS Hamfest Meeting, 7:30 pm
Southern Rwy Bldg, Carson St.

Mar 12 - YL RARS Meeting, 6:30
Cameron Vlg. K & W Cafe.

Mar 13-15 - Hamcation, Orlando, FL

Mar 18 - RARS Advisory Board Mtg
7:30 pm NCSU Faculty Club

Mar 21 - Novice License Enhancement
in effect

Mar 21, 22 - Charlotte NC Hamfest
ARRL/Roanoke Div Conv w/exams
Pre-reg by March 14

Apr 12 - Annual RARS Hamfest w/exams
Pre-reg by April 5